

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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TAGS: PBOR, MX

SUBJECT: GOM WRESTLES WITH U.S. PROPOSAL TO HOLD JOINT MEETINGS
OF ILLEGAL ALIEN COMMISSIONS

REF: MEXICO 6066

1. SECRETARY OF MEXICO'S INTERSECRETARIAL COMMISSION ON
ILLEGAL ALIENS, LIC. JUAN BARONA LOBATO, TOLD EMBOFF JULY 23
THAT HIS COMMISSION HAD ENCOUNTERED DELAYS AND SOME DIFFICULTY
IN DRAFTING RESPONSE TO OUR LATEST NOTE ON ILLEGAL ALIEN
COMMISSIONS. SAID NOTE HAD SPARKED SOME DIFFERENCES OF
OPINION AMONG COMMISSION MEMBERS, SPECIFICALLY WITH RESPECT
TO WHAT MIGHT BE AN APPROPRIATE AGENDA FOR AN INITIAL JOINT
MEETING WITH OUR OWN INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE. CONSENSUS WAS
THAT COMMISSIONS SHOULD NOT ATTEMPT TO JUMP TOO SOON INTO
CONSIDERATION OF POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS BUT INSTEAD SHOULD
BEGIN WITH A "POLITICAL" REVIEW OF THE PROBLEM -- AN AIRING OF
CURRENT OFFICIAL VIEWS ON THE NATURE AND CAUSES OF CROSS-
BORDER MIGRATION -- AND THEN PROCEED TO AN EXCHANGE OF
CURRENTLY AVAILABLE DATA AND INFORMATION.

2. BARONA SAID THAT COMMISSION HAD REACHED TENTATIVE
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AGREEMENT ON A DRAFT RESPONSE BUT WAS NOW INHIBITED BY

FONSEC RABASA'S EXTENDED ABSENCE FROM MEXICO. MOREOVER, HE FEARED THAT RABASA WOULD WISH TO CONSIDER THE MATTER WITH OTHER CABINET MEMBERS AND EVENTUALLY CLEAR IT WITH THE PRESIDENT HIMSELF. SINCE THE LATTER IS NOT DUE BACK IN MEXICO UNTIL MID-AUGUST, A FORMAL REPLY MIGHT BE YET SOME TIME IN COMING.

3. BARONA ADDED THAT THE COMMISSION WAS THINKING NOW IN TERMS OF THE MEETING'S TAKING PLACE LATE IN SEPTEMBER OR EARLY OCTOBER. HE ALSO SAID HE HOPED TO ADVANCE THE IDEA THAT IT SHOULD BE HELD AWAY FROM THE CAPITAL CITIES SOMEWHERE CLOSER TO THE "SCENE OF ACTION" -- PERHAPS TIJUANA, EL PASO, OR DENVER.

4. IN COMMENTING ON EVENTUAL "SOLUTIONS" TO THE PROBLEM, BARONA MADE CLEAR HE WAS IMPRESSED BY WHAT HE TOOK TO BE DEPUTY ASST SECY LUERS' MORE FORTHCOMING POSITION, ATTRIBUTING TO LUERS THREE PRINCIPAL VIEWPOINTS: (A) THAT THE PROBLEM WAS A BILATERAL ONE WHOSE SOLUTION REQUIRED CONTRIBUTIONS FROM BOTH U.S. AND MEXICO; (B) THAT REPRESSIVE OR "POLICE" ACTION BY THE U.S. WAS NOT THE ANSWER; AND (C) THAT CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO COOPERATIVE PROJECTS IN THE MEXICAN COUNTRYSIDE "WHICH WERE NOT INTERVENTIONIST IN CHARACTER". EMBOFF CAUTIONED HIM THAT LUERS' OBSERVATIONS WERE STRICTLY TENTATIVE AND INFORMAL, OBSERVED THAT COMMISSIONS THEMSELVES WOULD HAVE TO GRAPPLE LONG AND HARD BEFORE CONCLUSIONS COULD BE REACHED, AND NOTED THAT NO SINGLE MEASURE BUT MORE LIKELY A COMBINATION OF STEPS -- BOTH UNILATERAL AND COOPERATIVE -- MIGHT BE INDICATED IN THE END.

5. BARONA PROMISED TO LET US KNOW AS SOON AS HE HAD ANY INDICATION OF A CLEARED RESPONSE TO OUR NOTE. WE AGREED IT WAS ESSENTIAL NOT TO LOSE PRESENT MOMENTUM AND INTEREST AMONG ALLIED AGENCIES ON BOTH SIDES. JOVA

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